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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

**STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION**

AT RICHMOND, MAY 2, 2002

APPLICATION OF

VERIZON SOUTH INC.

CASE NO. PUC-2002-00013

For a change of classification  
of intraLATA toll service under  
Plan for Alternative Regulation

ORDER

On February 1, 2002, Verizon South Inc. ("Verizon South" or "Company") filed tariffs proposing the reclassification of intraLATA toll and related services as "Competitive" under its Plan for Alternative Regulation ("Plan"). The Company notes in the cover letter accompanying the tariff filing that "competition from a multitude of carriers in today's long distance marketplace is clearly and irreversibly an effective regulator of the price" of its long-distance service.

On February 22, 2002, the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") entered an Order for Notice that directed Verizon South to publish notice of its application and established a period for the receipt of comments or requests for hearing on the Company's filing. Comments have been filed by Cox Virginia Telcom, Inc. and a member of the general public, but no one has

<p><b>Effective April 9, 2002, the new Case Management System requires that the case number format for all Commission orders change from, <u>e.g.</u>, PUE010663 to the following: PUE-2001-00663.</b></p>
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requested a hearing.

Nonetheless, the Commission believes that Verizon South should be permitted to respond to the comments filed herein, particularly inasmuch as they assert that the application "fails to satisfy the requirement under the Plan that Verizon [South] demonstrate 'how competition or the potential for competition is or can be an effective regulator of the price of the service.'"<sup>1</sup> In order for us to complete our review of this filing under the terms set out in the Plan,<sup>2</sup> we will require the Company to file its responsive comments on or before May 15, 2002.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) On or before May 15, 2002, Verizon South Inc. shall file responsive comments as set out herein.

(2) This matter is continued for further orders of the Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> *Comments of Cox Virginia Telcom, Inc.*, at 2.

<sup>2</sup> Subsection D of the Plan requires that in a proposed reclassification our review is to be concluded within 90 days of the proposed effective date of the tariff (here, March 4) except where the reclassification is to the "Competitive" category, in which case we have 120 days in which to act. Accordingly, we must conclude our review on or before July 2.